

library. She also boosted the college's presence at community meetings and events, working closely with the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation and the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. The college has begun entering a float in the annual Dundalk Independence Day parade, winning awards for the past three consecutive years.

A self-described "servant leader," Dr. Kurtinitis is an experienced and respected educator, administrator and author. Before returning to Maryland, she served as president of Quinsigamond Community College in Massachusetts and, prior, taught English at Prince George's Community College for 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis. Her dedication to quality education for all students is an inspiration. It is with great admiration and appreciation that I congratulate Dr. Kurtinitis on her well-deserved recognition and wish her many more years of success.

RECOGNITION OF FIFTY-EIGHT
SOUTH JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS FOR ENLISTING IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 58 high school seniors in South Jersey for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 48 seniors, 13 have joined the Marine Corps; their names are Dominigo Parson, Kyle Hohwald, Angel Gomez, Andrew Galiano, Blasé Salvatore, Cody Quick, Joshua Molinas, Jacob Presley, Hector Rivera, Anthony Pimpinello Jr., Giovanni Figueroa, Joseph Fabrizio, and Vincent Settineri II. Nine have joined the Army; their names are Dakota Beck, Brian Esposito, John Sabatino, Alan Ngyen, Kierra Law, Darryn Henwood, Ryan Madden, Kevin Roberts and Tony Ta. Ten have joined the Air Force; their names are Dane Urgo, Marvin Smith, Addison Steiger, Daniel Flowers, Rebecca Freedman, Alex Belii, Carlos Restrepo, Gabrielle Swift, Matthew Vitalone, and Taylor Dockery. Four have joined the Navy; their names are John Weiser, Matthew Kapp, Craig Smith and Derek Smith. Twelve have joined the New Jersey Army National Guard; their names are Ronald Chin, Wyatt Cooper, Tyrell Powell, Daniel Szovati, Aleshia Morales, Tucker Patten, Jimmy Rodriguez, Yaritza Victor, Michael Murphy, Christian Shinkowitz, Andrew Krevetski and Jonathan Kellum. All of the 46 seniors will be recognized at the "Our Community Salutes of South Jersey" ceremony to be held during the evening of May 30.

As this month begins many of these young men and women will be celebrating their graduation with their fellow classmates. During that time their classmates will be preparing to move onto college or vocational school life, as these men and women begin their training in the armed services, beginning a life of service and sacrifice, all in the efforts of defending our nation and its ideals.

These young men and women now embark on a new chapter in their lives surrounded by

the uncertainties of the world around them. But they should be eased by the knowledge that they are going to receive the best training available to our Armed Forces as well as the unwavering support of this chamber and the American people as they meet the challenges they may face in defense of our nation.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to these brave young men and women. Their sacrifices are the reason why I have the privilege of addressing you in this great chamber of the House of Representatives. The freedom to debate the issues confronting our nation is greatly provided by the sacrifices that these new Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, along with those who came before them, have fought hard to defend.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable dedication to our country that these young adults have demonstrated by enlisting in the Armed Forces. May we never forget to recognize all those who serve our nation and the courage they have shown volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our freedoms. All Americans owe them, as well as all those who are currently and who have in the past served our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY
COLONEL CHANDLER C. (SKIP)
SHERRELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Colonel Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell, who is retiring after 26 years of service to our nation as an Army Aviation Officer. During his distinguished career, COL Sherrell served the nation in peace and war in numerous positions of steadily increasing responsibility. Colonel Sherrell has led soldiers in combat, trained soldiers for war, and served as an advisor and assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), and as a DoD Fellow to the United States Congress. He has served his Nation in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Germany, and Korea, as well as in demanding assignments in the United States. His decorations for his service include awards for valor. He is an outstanding Army aviator, leader, and soldier, and he is deserving of our recognition.

COL Skip Sherrell concluded an outstanding career by serving for two years as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM). He brought a wealth of expertise in aviation operations to the AMCOM Command Group. Prior to joining AMCOM, Colonel Sherrell performed one of the most demanding and critical assignments of his career, serving as the Commander of Task Force (TF) 49. TF 49 was the Army's designation for a composite Aviation Brigade, formed from many units to perform combat operations in Iraq. In twelve months of intensive flying in multiple locations across Iraq, Colonel Sherrell led TF 49 to complete mission success with an impressive safety record—an outstanding achievement.

Colonel Sherrell served in a role that few Army officers experience: working as the Dep-

uty Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). Serving as a liaison to Congress as the personal representative of the CJCS is an important position, but more importantly, he also served as a soldier's advocate on Capitol Hill for equipment modernization and improved systems and protection.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring COL Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell's exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR.
WAYNE L. NELSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wayne L. Nelson, who died on April 30, 2012. Mr. Nelson was a deeply committed environmentalist. Throughout his life, he fought tenaciously for the protection of Florida's ecosystems. He always had a special concern for Lake Okeechobee, which is the seventh largest freshwater lake in the United States and the largest in the State of Florida. Mr. Nelson was widely respected by everyone of like mind who knew of his love for Florida's natural resources. Younger environmentalists trusted him for his knowledge and learned much from his advice.

An avid angler with a passion for conservation, Mr. Nelson founded Fishermen Against the Destruction of the Environment (FADE) as well as Clean Lake Environment and Recreation (CLEAR). Additionally, he was an active member of Greenpeace and Public Citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne Nelson left a fine legacy of caring for our environment and teaching younger generations all that he knew. Wherever he went, he spread awareness of the importance of saving the earth, and he will be greatly missed by family, friends and everyone in the environmental community. My thoughts are with Mr. Nelson's loved ones during this most difficult time.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Education Task Force, co-chaired by Mr. Oscar Wright and Mrs. Wandra Boyd, for its record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in California's Oakland Unified School District.

Today, the African American Education Task Force and the Oakland Unified School District will celebrate a successful decade of

recognizing our local African American students' Honor Roll status. The African American Education Task Force Academic Achievement Celebration takes place at the ACTS Full Gospel Church, pastored by Bishop Bob Jackson in Oakland, California.

During this year's event, 1,026 African American students from the 8th through 12th grades will be honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2011–2012 school year. This outstanding group of young people has accomplished a great deal, and we are pleased to commend them for their academic dedication and success. Especially in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the city of Oakland, these students have proven themselves to be bright, capable and resourceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every student for earning this distinction. Thank you for understanding and promoting the importance of staying in school. By continuing to be the best students possible and by making the most of your education, you will enjoy a full range of opportunities to achieve your personal goals, as well as give back to your communities.

Your accomplishments represent the strength of your initiative and a commitment to excellence. The skills and discipline you have developed will be of great use as you continue to follow your dreams toward success. I am so very proud of you for taking personal pride in your studies. Oakland's future leaders are certainly present at this celebration of academic achievement, and I welcome your many civic contributions in the years to come.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I again salute you for your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that you will continue this fine record of scholarship, service and success. Keep up the good work, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH, MAY 15, 2012

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mount Carmel Baptist Church who this year, will celebrate 100 years of service to the Arverne Community in my district.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church is committed to advancing the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, comforting the sick and distressed, and helping humanity.

Under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Hezekiah May, Mount Carmel Baptist Church became the flagship Baptist Church on Far Rockaway. Rev. May was a freedom fighter for affordable and appropriate housing and through his efforts, the City of New York took notice and began building public housing.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church has served as a pillar to the Arverne community through its desire to further the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through social activism, pastoral care, community engagement and youth development.

On behalf of the more than 655,000 residents of Sixth Congressional District, we thank

Mount Carmel for your outstanding contribution to our community, city, and state. We join with Mount Carmel to celebrate 100 years of service and wish you continued success in all of your endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SMSGT (RET.) WALTER LAMERTON'S EFFORTS TO BRING A USO CENTER TO TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired U.S. Air Force SMSgt (Ret.) Walter Lamerton of Trinity, Florida for his critical role in bringing the USO to Tampa International Airport.

On January 18, 2012, the USO Board of Governors voted to grant a charter for the USO expansion to Tampa. This USO Center is scheduled to open in August 2012 and will support the more than 300,000 service members and their families that annually transit the Tampa Bay community. At the time of the vote, USO Headquarters Staff stated that "Many have applied, but that this is the first Chartered USO Center approved in the nation in over twenty years."

Walter Lamerton was a driving force behind submitting this ultimately successful proposal to the USO Board of Governors. He worked closely with volunteers throughout the Tampa Bay area and effectively conveyed their message of support for our service members and their families to both the local community and to the USO Board of Governors, under a compact timeframe.

Mr. Lamerton's leadership and attention to detail were critical in the effort to bring the USO Center to Tampa. As a result, many of our Nation's service members and their families will directly benefit from his efforts for years to come.

As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services. Because of this, it is my distinct honor to recognize and express my gratitude to Walter Lamerton for his dedication in bringing the USO to the Tampa Bay area. His success in this endeavor will serve as a lasting legacy for all who support our military and their families. The USO Center at Tampa International Airport will, surely, be a shining star in our community.

PRAISE FOR TAIWANESE ELECTIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan prepares for its Presidential inauguration on May 20, I'd like to congratulate our friends in Taiwan for the smooth conclusion of their presidential election on January 14, when Mr. Ma Ying-jeou won a second term as President of Taiwan.

For over half a century, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed strong relations over economic and security issues. Our shared interest in peace and stability has guided the relationship, and our commitment to Taiwan's security, as stated in the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, has enabled Taiwan to build a strong democratic government which serves as a symbol of success for others in the region and beyond. Similarly, Taiwan's economic partnership with us has been extremely beneficial. Taiwan is currently our tenth largest trading partner, with over \$68 billion in total bilateral trade.

During Mr. Ma's second term, I hope our relationship with Taiwan will continue to flourish in areas as diverse as trade, military cooperation, and the Visa Waiver Program.

Congratulations to Mr. Ma and the people of Taiwan.

THE DEATH OF NICHOLAS KING

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my regrettable duty to report the death of a great American, Nicolas King. Mr. King died on April 3, 2012 in Santa Rosa, California. He was 79. Perhaps more than any other person, Mr. King was responsible for preserving the Watts Towers in Los Angeles, which has been visited by millions over the past 50 years.

King was instrumental in preserving the world famous Watts Towers which adds an aesthetic appeal to my 37th District. The unique work of folk art, was created over 33 years by Italian immigrant Simon Rodia. Rodia, described as a cement finisher and construction worker, began building the towers in 1921. The nearly 100-foot complex of spires and other structures are decorated with broken pottery, seashells, glazed tiles and pieces of colored glass.

In 1954, Rodia moved to Martinez, California to be closer to family and signed his property over to his neighbor, Louis Saucedo. His former house had burned down, the gates to the walled property were open and unguarded, and the grounds were littered with refuse left by unwanted visitors. Nicholas King and his friend, William Cartwright, visited the famed Watts Towers for the first time and were surprised by what they saw.

The current owner was a dairy farmer by the name of Joseph Montoya. For \$3,000 and a downpayment check of just \$20, Nicholas King and William Cartwright became the owners of the Watts Towers. King and Cartwright cleaned up the area around the towers, and an architect friend of Cartwright soon drew up a plan for a caretaker's cottage on the property. But when the architect went to apply for a building permit, he discovered that an order had been issued earlier for Montoya to "demolish and remove the fire-damaged dwelling and dangerous towers from the premises on or before March 5, 1957." The Watts Towers in 1959 passed a stress test in which the tallest spire was subjected to 10,000 pounds of force and avoided demolition.

With the establishment of the Committee for Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts, King and Cartwright yielded ownership of the towers to